

T H E  
C A S E  
O F T H E  
Gentlemen and Freeholders  
Bordering upon  
NEEDWOOD-FOREST.

21 Nov. 1683.

**K**ING *Charles* the Second, by Letters Patent, granted to certain Trustees, for Colonel *Vernon* and their Heirs, the Honour and Mannor of *Tutbury*, and the Forest and Chace of *Needwood*, with the Soil, Ground and Woods thereof.

7th and 8th K.  
W. 3d.

Mr. *Browne* lent Colonel *Vernon* 3300 *l.* upon the Security of this Grant. By Act of Parliament those Letters Patents, and the Grant thereby made are vacated, and the Honour, Forest, &c. reverted in the Crown; but the 3300 *l.* due to Mr. *Browne* with Interest for it, is by the same Act appointed to be paid to Mr. *Browne* by Woods felled, and to be felled within the Forest after *Lady-day* 1697, if the King did not pay him the Money before that time.

By the same Act it is enacted, That no alienation shall be made of the Honour of *Tutbury-Forest*, of *Needwood*, or any of the Parks, Mannors, &c. belonging to it, from the Crown without consent of Parliament.

28th July 1698

Sir *John Turton*, one of the Justices of the King's Bench, who before he was a Judge, opposed the Grant to Colonel *Vernon*, and advised an Act of Parliament for vacating it; hath since obtained from his Majesty a Grant of the Woods in *Heylin-Park*, and *Ruffey-Park*, belonging to *Needwood-Forest*, and a Lease for Ninety Nine Years of the Soil of those Parks, with liberty to dispark and Plough up the same, for no other consideration whatsoever, then his Services to the Crown, and the yearly Rent of 1 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d.* although the Wood and Soil was valued by the King's Surveyor, upon the contest of Colonel *Vernon's* Grant, at 2048 *l.* 15 *s.*

Sir *John Turton* pretends this is no alienation within the late Act of Parliament, which was designed only to prevent an alienation in Fee.

This is a weak evasion out of the Letter of the Act; but is a mischief within the meaning of it, and is also an alienation in point of Law.

For the intent of that Law was, That those Royalties should be preserved entire, and continued in the Crown, which are as effectually granted away by a Lease for Ninety nine Years as by a grant of the Fee, and by the same Reason, that a Lease of Ninety nine Years may be granted, a Lease of Two thousand, or Ten thousand Years may be granted; after any of which Terms, the Reversion is of no value.

The Ancient Rent reserved for the Herbage and Pannage only of *Heyling-Park*, allowing Pasture for the King's Deer there, was 3 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d.* and upon this Grant 1 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d.* only is reserved for the whole Herbage, Pannage and Soil.

The Woods intended by Act of Parliament to pay Mr. *Browne's* Debt, are converted to a private use, and Mr. *Browne's* Money with growing Interest remains a charge upon the Forest.

The Commoners who have Estovers of Wood within the Forest are prejudiced by this Grant, and the beauty of the Forest will be impaired by the felling of so much Wood as is necessary to pay Mr. *Browne's* Debt.